

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299378
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT - BFURNESS:JAS
APPROVED BY EB/ITP - WBARRACLOUGH
EB/ITP/EWT - JCRAWFORD
EUR/SOV - JCOLBERT (SUBS)
-----067772 160708Z /23

R 151905Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, UR

SUBJECT: COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SALE TO TASS: MEETING WITH
SPERRY RAND REPRESENTATIVES

REF: MOSCOW 17864

1. SPERRY RAND COUNSEL EDWARD GOLDMAN CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRACLOUGH DECEMBER 9 TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS HAVING "SERIOUS PROBLEMS" WITH TASS AS AN END-USER OF US-ORIGIN COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. BARRACLOUGH STATED THAT THE CASE HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND WHILE A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION HAD VIEWED THE SALE NEGATIVELY, FURTHER REVIEW HAD DETERMINED OTHERWISE. ACCORDINGLY, HE ADVISED GOLDMAN THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD POSE NO FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIONS TO TASS AS A RECIPIENT OF SPERRY-RAND'S COMPUTER EQUIPMENT.

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2. MR. BARRACLOUGH NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION MUST ALSO BE REVIEWED FOR STRATEGIC CRITERIA AND THAT, AS USUAL, THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WAS THE LEAD AGENCY IN THIS PROCESS.

3. FYI. OUTCOME OF REVIEW ON STRATEGIC CRITERIA IS NOT, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY PREDICTABLE. INFORMALLY, WE UNDER-

STAND THAT THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM HAVE RAISED
SERIOUS STRATEGIC CONCERNS ON THE PART OF DEFENSE AND
COMMERCE, AND WE AWAIT FORMAL POSITIONS ON THE BASIS FOR
THESE CONCERNS. AS THE EMBASSY KNOWS, IN 1976, EXPORT
CONTROL AUTHORITIES REJECTED AN IBM APPLICATION TO SHIP
A COMPUTER TO TASS, AS WELL AS A SUBSEQUENT SPERRY APPLI-
CATION FOR A MESSAGE-SWITCHING SYSTEM. CONCURRENTLY WITH
CONSIDERATION OF THE SPERRY CASE, US EXPORT CONTROL
OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON A
SIMILAR SALE TO TASS BY HONEYWELL-BULL. THE STRATEGIC
CONCERNS MUST ALSO BE ADDRESSED IN INTER-AGENCY CONSIDERA-
TION OF THAT PROPOSED SYSTEM. VANCE

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Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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